

The Brandon Amateur Radio Society Newsletter
Over 43 years of service to the Brandon Area
Brandon, Florida USA

Brandon Amateur Radio Society

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KM4DTJ

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Soup, Chili, and Comradre at Winter Field Day 2020

Richard Jones (KW4MB)

Richard Jones (KW4MB) hosted Winter Field Day in his back yard with Co-Host Rodney Clark (KC4MMR) on January 25, 2020.

A total of 9 people attended and 25 contacts were made using two rigs on battery power.

Soup was provided by Angie Vazquez (K14RUC), Chili was provided by Richard Jones (KW4MB), and doughnuts were provided by Rodney Clark (KC4MMR).

A Midland Weather Radio, donated by Ron Perrett (K4FZU), served as the door prize and was won by Richard Sorenson (KB3TLV).

More photos on page 3.



KW4MB's Back Yard / WFD Site



L to R: Dave Welty (N4DLW), Richard Sorenson (KB3TLV), and Rodney Clark (KC4MMR)

The 630 Meter Band

Ron Perrett (K4FZU)

After the business meeting our Vice President will overview the rousing topic of LF.

You know...that "new" 475 kHz band was allocated to amateurs on a secondary basis in a report and order issued March 29, 2017? During this program you will learn this and more—including the maximum EIRP and

how to navigate the FCC's registration-to-use rule.

Next Meeting

February 20, 2020

7:30 P.M.

Business Meeting

Program Follows

Bring a Friend! Coffee and Doughnuts!

Inside this issue:

App of the Month	2
FL State Parks OTA	2
Winter Field Day Pics	3
CW Class Update	3
From the President	4
Member Spotlight	5
Hamfests & More	5

How Your Dues Support the Society

Scott Irwin (W8UFD)

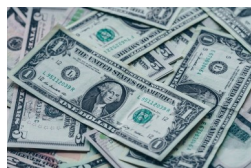
At \$25 a year for single/family dues and \$10 a year for students/associates, the Brandon Amateur Radio Society dues are modest compared to other membership organizations....but what do you get for your membership?

The Society owns and operates two repeaters: a VHF repeater on 147.165 MHz and a UHF repeater on 443.500 MHz. In addition to these repeaters the dues are used for the following:

- Our internet presence at <http://www.brandonhamradio.com/>
- Field Day at NO COST to members and guests.
- Club liability insurance.
- A donation to the church for allowing us to use the facility for our meeting location.

- Post Office Box Rental
- Document Printing
- Parks on the Air
- Meeting Refreshments
- Programs & Activities

To pay your dues please contact Jim Moorhead (WF4AC) or send them to the address on the back



Echolink allows you to connect to repeaters and simplex nodes around the world... including our VHF repeater.

Mobile App of the Month: EchoLink

Scott Irwin (W8UFD)

If you have an Apple or Android phone you have the opportunity to use it to connect o repeaters, simplex links, and conferences all over the world using the EchoLink application. This includes the VHF repeater system, thanks to Dave Welty (N4DLW)! It is available in the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.

After installing the application you will need to enter your

callsign and password. If you are not already a validated EchoLink user you will be required to register (using your callsign and a password of your choice) the first time you run the application.

Once you are registered and logged in, do a search for N4DLW-R and click Connect. You will see a "Transmit" button. Tap it to begin transmitting and tap the microphone to end.

Local users, remember to allow the repeater to fully drop and allow a second or two for Echo-link stations. For more information visit <http://www.echolink.org/>.



Florida Parks on the Air: April 4

The fourth annual Florida State Parks on the Air contest, sponsored by the Lakeland Amateur Radio Club (K4LKL), will be held April 4 and 5, 2020.

The event is designed to build public awareness of ham radio and Florida's state park system, contribute to the recognition and appreciation of Florida's diverse ecology, encourage camaraderie and sportsmanship among Flori-

da's amateur radio operators, and to provide a venue for Florida's amateurs to get out and enjoy the great outdoors.

Numerous changes have been made to the rules this year, including a new QRP category (less than 100 watts), multiplier changes, and simplification of the operator entry categories (single & multi-operator).

The club has participated in this event in prior years, placing first in low power SSB in 2018 and combining it with a picnic in 2019.

More details on this year's event will be in the March issue. If you would like to chair or help organize this event please contact Dana Perrin (KM4DTJ).



Soup, Chili, and Comradre at Winter Field Day (Photos)



Angie Vazquez (KI4RUC)



Richard Jones (KW4MB), Angie Vazquez (KI4RUC), and John Garner (K4ZVO) at one of the operating positions.



L to R: Ron Perrett (K4FZU), Jim Smith (K4PPK), John Garner (K4ZVO), Richard Jones (KW4MB), Dave Welty (N4DLW), Angie Vazquez (KI4RUC), Richard Sorenson (KB3TLV), and Rod Clark (KC4MMR)

More Details on Upcoming 2020 Morse Code Class

Mark Haskell (WB9UJS)

The location for the Code class have been finalized. The course will be held in the church offices on the second floor.

He will provide an update to the club at the February meeting.

The code classes are scheduled to start on Monday March 16th. In addition there will be handouts on materials and equipment that students must have before they start the class.

Mark says that this will be a small class in order to ensure each student will reap the great-

est benefit from the class. To sign up send an e-mail to Mark now or sign up for the course at the February meeting.

Student Requirements

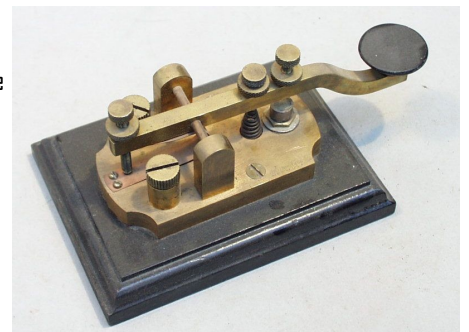
- Students are required to have a code oscillator and a straight key. Everything should be assembled and functional on the first day of the class.
- Class attendance is mandatory. Students may miss two classes during the 13 week course.
- All students will receive a

CD with files/documents to print out and reference.

- The CD will include the Koch code-training program to use on their home computer.
- Students should expect to spend at least 90 minutes a week studying outside the classroom.
- Students must bring the following to each class:
 - Key & key oscillator
 - Notebook for copying

Pencils/pen

- Digital Voice Recorder/Cell phone with recording capability that will be used to record material to work on at home.





From The President's Desk—Dana Perrin

Dana Perrin (KM4DTJ)

First of all, we want to thank Rod Clark and Richard Jones for planning and executing another GREAT Winter Field Day! Thank You! I think we are off to a great start this year. In January, the BARS officers met to plan the year and here are a few things on the horizon:

We will have a number of openings for Committee Chairpersons at our February meeting. If you have ever thought about becoming a Chairperson in the past, this is your chance! Please remember you will have the support of many if you decide to take one of these positions.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Scott Irwin for taking the reins as our new Antenna Newsletter Editor! Welcome and Thank You Scott! Please keep those articles and photos coming and send them to Scott.

Some exciting events coming up include: A Morse Code Course offered by Mark Haskell starting soon, Florida State Parks on the Air (April 4th), the Brandon 4th of July Parade, ARRL Field Day (June 27th and 28th), a Jamboree On The Air activity (We'll hear more about Radio Scouting at our March meeting), Hurricane Drill / Mass Casualty Drill (dates to be determined), and the Tampa Bay Hamfest and

Skywarn Recognition Day, both in December. In addition, at our February meeting, you'll hear about an exciting "SURPRISE" event. You won't want to miss it!

I'm going to suggest that our 2020 theme be "Teamwork."

"Coming together is a beginning.

Keeping together is progress.

Working together is success."

-Henry Ford

"For me, it was the single best hands-on radio exercise I've been involved in to date!"

-Larry S.

Volunteers Needed for the BikeMS Citrus Tour

Scott Irwin (WBUF0)

The BikeMS Citrus Tour, scheduled for March 7-8, 2020, is the largest fundraising event of the Mid-Florida chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. They work to improve the quality of life for people affected by Multiple Sclerosis in central Florida and raise funds for critical MS research.

Multiple sclerosis is a disease that damages the insulating covers of nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord. This disrupts the ability nervous systems' ability to transmit signals resulting in a range of physical, mental, and sometimes psychiatric problems.

The Citrus Tour is a two day bicycle event in Polk County where participants raise money to fund MS research and assist local families impacted by the disease. It consists of a 27 mile,

50 mile, 78 mile, and 103 mile route. Each day will begin and end at the Omni Resort in Championsgate, Florida.

The ARRL West Central Florida section coordinates amateur radio operators who provide "all route communications and mobile rider support along the courses. Most of [the] volunteers have been volunteering for years and some come from as far away as Miami."

The team not only operates a fully directed net with tactical call signs; they also track units via APRS.

The team is in need of volunteers for the following positions:

- Command Post Support
- Greenway (SAG) Unit
- Logistics Support
- Passenger Operator (non-

driving radio operator)

- Rest Stop Communicator
- Rover Unit
- Support and Gear (SAG) Unit
- Shadow Unit
- Start/Finish Volunteers

Besides networking with fellow amateur radio operators, you will meet amazing participants who ride despite having the disease. It also affords you the opportunity to experience "emergency training without the emergency."

For more details or to register please visit <http://www.citrustour.org/>.

Information from this piece came from the above website.



WCFCountry
West Central Florida Section

Member Spotlight—Scott Irwin (W8UFD)

Scott Irwin was born in Detroit, Michigan and his family moved to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan where he grew up. Since then his journey has lead him South. After graduating from Gogebic Community College in 1993 he spent 3 years determining fiber optic node locations for cable television systems while providing technology support. He was licensed as KB8SBQ at during that time.

He then moved to Milwaukee where he was an assistant LAN administrator and technology coordinator. He became active in Skywarn before moving to Chicago in 1999 to begin his role as a Regional Technology Infrastructure Manager.

In the Chicago area he was active in ARES, Skywarn, and was

the officer in a variety of local radio clubs. He upgraded to Amateur Extra and enjoyed CW, Digital, and Voice HF operations using a TA-33Jr/WARC beam and inverted-v dipole at his home.

He moved to Riverview, FL in 2014 after an organizational restructuring eliminated his job and has been the Secretary and President of BARS, is a training committee member for Hillsborough County ARES/RACES, and is a trained spotter in the Skywarn program.

At home he operates VHF/UHF using a ground mounted Comet GP-15 and Yaesu FT-857. For HF he uses portable antennas and a Gap Eagle DX antenna. His modes of choice are PSK-31, FT-8, and CW. He's looking forward

to the club's CW course and hopes to participate in that.

Scott has been married to his wife Beth for over 20 years and while they have no children they have a nine month old Black Lab/Border Collie mix (Barador) named Shadow.

He is a business continuity and disaster recovery manager for one of the top 4 accounting/advisory firms and Beth is a toddler teacher at a local learning center. When not working they enjoy camping and other outdoor activities. Scott also enjoys cooking, photography, and video creation.



Hamfests & Conventions In The Division

02/21/2020—02/22/2020
6th Annual TECHCON
Punta Gorda, FL
ARRL West Central Florida Section
<http://arrlwcf.org>

02/21/2020
Dalton Hamfest
Dalton, GA
Dalton Amateur Radio Club
<http://www.w4drc.com>

03/06/2020
BirmingHamfest, Alabama Section Convention
Location: Trussville, AL
Birmingham Amateur Radio Club
<http://birminghamfest.org>

03/07/2020 | Charlotte County Hamfest
Punta Gorda, FL
Peace River Radio Association

03/14/2020 | Flamingo Net Flea at U. of Miami
Coral Gables, FL
Flamingo Net Amateur Radio Club
<http://FlamingoNet.8m.net>

03/14/2020 | Gulf Coast ARC Spring Hamfest
New Port Richey, FL
Gulf Coast Amateur Radio Club
<http://gulfcoastarc.org>

March Meeting Info.

Ken Lyons, KN4MDJ, Trustee of the WB4SA callsign for the BSA Central Florida Council, will be our guest speaker at the March 19, 2020 meeting.

He will discuss the importance of youth scouting programs, an outline of the Central Florida Council's efforts in their program, and what local radio clubs can do to help Radio Scouting in their own councils.



Upcoming Events

- > February 20, 2020
BARS Club Meeting
7:30 PM at Arise
Assembly of God at
Brandon. 401 Pauls
Drive, Brandon, FL
33511
- > March 7, 2020
BARS License Exams
11:00 AM at Arise
Assembly of God at
Brandon. 401 Pauls
Drive, Brandon, FL
33511
- > March 19, 2020
BARS Club Meeting
7:30 PM at Arise
Assembly of God at
Brandon. 401 Pauls
Drive, Brandon, FL
33511
- > Mondays, 8 PM ET
VHF Net (147.165 MHz)
- > Tuesdays, 7 PM ET
6 Meter Roundtable
(50.200 MHz USB)
- > Tuesdays, 8 PM ET
10 Meter Roundtable
(28.365 MHz USB)
- > Fridays, 7 PM ET
80 Meter Roundtable
(3.830 MHz LSB)



Daylight Savings Time
Begins March 8, 2020



The Brandon Amateur Radio Society (BARS) has been serving Brandon, Valrico, Mango, Seffner, Palm River, Gibsonton, Riverview, and the East Tampa area for over 43 years providing public service and emergency preparedness communications as well as license classes and radio operator training programs.



Thank you to the members and staff of Arise for their kindness

In allowing BARS the use of their facility!

Our Repeaters

147.165 MHz (+ offset, 136.5 Hz PL Tone, Analog FM) - N4DLW-R Echolink Node
443.500 MHz (+ Offset, 127.3 Hz PL Tone, Analog FM, C4FM) - N4DLW/R Wires X

Brandon Amateur Radio Society
P.O. Box 2307
Brandon, FL 33509-2307



<http://www.brandonhamradio.org/>



<http://www.fb.me/brandonhamradio>



<http://www.twitter.com/brandonhamradio>

VK-ZL 1296 MHz Distance Record Broken After 32 Years

*Hayden Honeywood (VK7HH) via
QRZ.Com Newsroom*

On Friday the 31st of January, a large tropospheric opening was predicted to form between VK7 and ZL. Much discussion was had in the week beforehand and several stations decided to try and participate.

Due to the high fire danger (40 degree Celsius day) and subsequent closure, Mt Wellington was ruled out as a possible spot to operate. Murray VK7ZMS, Richard VK7ZBX and Hayden VK7HH set off to operate from One Tree Hill near Kingston whilst Rex VK7MD operated from home, hoping to work Roger ZL3RC on 10 GHz.

We arrived on site shortly after 6am local time and commenced setting up and the first contact was made to Nick ZL1IU on 2m at 5/5 by Murray. Richard then worked Nick on 70cm at 5/1 both ways. Murray also worked Nick on 432. This is Murray's first contacts to ZL on 2m and 70cm. Congratulations Murray!

Then at 20:08 UTC, Rex worked Nick 5/6 on 1296 MHz, the first contact between VK7 and ZL on 23cm and a new VK7 state record at 2432.6km settling a long held frustration having not worked back in 2006 when a similar opening occurred.

Then, 9 mins later at 20:17 UTC, Hayden worked Nick 4/1 both

ways on 1296 from his remote site, the 2nd contact between VK7 and ZL on 23cm and a new National and State record at 2458.9km. This breaks the current National Record which was set in 1988 between VK3 and 6 by 3.8km!!

Later contacts were made on 2m with varying signal strengths throughout the morning to ZL1SWW, ZL1TPH and ZL3RC. We thank all the stations who participated in giving it a real go on this opening. Unfortunately, despite Hepburn predictions, conditions were not strong enough for any other bands above 1296, despite repeated attempts.



Submit your articles & photos for the next edition of *The Antenna* by March 9, 2020!

Send electronic submissions to
w8ufo (at) arrl (dot) net